

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16-19, 22 and 23 have been amended. Claims 2, 6, 10 and 20 have been canceled to further the prosecution of the application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original and other claims in this and in other applications.

Claim 22 stands objected to because of informalities. Claim 22 has been amended to address the concerns raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9 and 16-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fujii. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 2, 6 and 10 and is believed to recite allowable subject matter as set forth in the Office Action. Claim 1 recites that “the first output signal generation circuit sets an output terminal to be in a high impedance state when the serial data signal DATA is at the second level.” Applicant submits that Fujii fails to disclose, teach or suggest at least this limitation of claim 1.

Fujii discloses a signal transmitting apparatus including a sending part and a receiving part. The sending part converts each width of digital input signals into a voltage in accordance with a predetermined weight, generates a send signal by adding voltages converted from the digital input signals, and outputs the send signal. The receiving part receives the send signal from the sending part, compares the send signal with a plurality of predetermined voltages, and generates each of the digital input signals. Fujii, however, does not disclose or suggest that a “first output signal generation circuit sets an output terminal to be in a high impedance state when the serial data signal DATA is at the second level,” as is recited in amended claim 1. As is acknowledged in the Office Action, Fujii does not disclose high impedance states. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Fujii.

Claims 3-5 and 7-9 depend from claim 1 and are allowable along with claim 1. Independent claims 16 and 19 recite similar limitations as claim 1 and are allowable over Fujii for at least the reasons set forth above and on their own merits. Claims 17-18 depend from claim 16.

Claims 21-23 depend from claim 19. Accordingly, claims 17-18 and 21-23 are also believed to be allowable over Fujii.

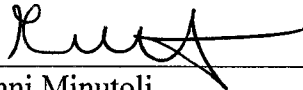
The rejection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 10-15 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable. The objection is respectfully traversed. Claims 11-15 depend from claim 1, which as described above is allowable over Fujii. As such, claims 11-15 are also allowable. The rejection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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